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H I S
MAJESTIES
DECLARATION.

CHARLES REX,



CHARLES, By the Grace
of God, King of England,
Scotland, France, and Ireland,
Defender of the Faith, &c.
To all our loving Subjects
of what Degree or Quality
soever, Greeting. If the
General Distraction and Confusion, which
is spread over the whole Kingdom, doth not
awaken all men to a Desire, and Longing,
that those Wounds which have so many
years together been kept bleeding, may be
bound up, all we can say will be to no pur-
pose: However, after this long Silence,
we have thought it our Duty to Declare,
how much we desire to contribute there-
unto; and that, as we can never give over
the hope in good time to obtain the Posses-
sion of that Right, which God, and Na-
ture hath made our Due; So we do make
it our dayly Suit to the Divine Provi-
dence, that he will, in Compassion to Us,
and our Subjects, after so long Misery,
and Sufferings, remit, and put Us into a
quiet and peaceable Possession of that our
Right, with as little Blood, and Da-
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mage to our People as is possible: Nor do we desire more to enjoy What is Ours, then that all Our Subjects may enjoy What, by Law is theirs, by a full, and entire Administration of Justice throughout the Land, and by extending Our Mercy Where it is Wanted, and deserved.

And to the end, that the fear of punishment, may not engage any conscious to themselves of What is past, to a perseverance in guilt for the future, by opposing the quiet, and happiness of their Country, in the Restoration both of King, Peers, and People, to their Just, Antient, and Fundamental Rights; We do by these presents Declare, That We do grant a Free and General Pardon, which We are ready, upon demand, to pass under Our Great Seal of England, to all Our Subjects of What Degree, or Quality soever, who within forty dayes after the publishing hereof, shall lay hold upon this Our Grace, and Favour, and shall, by any publick Act, Declare their doing so, and that they return to the Loyalty and Obedience of good Subjects; Excepting onely such persons, as shall hereafter be excepted by Parliament: Those onely excepted, let all Our Subjects, how faulty soever, rely upon the Word of a King, solemnly given by this present Declaration, That no Crime Whatsoever, committed against Us, or Our Royal Father, before the Publication of this, shall ever rise in judgement, or be brought in Question against any of them, to the least endamagement of them, either in their Lives, Liberties,

or Estates, or (as far forth as lies in Our power) so much as to the prejudice of their Reputations, by any Reproach, or term of distinction from the rest of Our best Subjects: We desiring, and ordaining that henceforward all Notes of Discord, Separation, and Difference of Parties, be utterly abolished among all Our Subjects, whom We invite, and conjure to a perfect union among themselves, under Our Protection for the Resettlement of our just Rights and theirs, in a Free Parliament, by which, upon the Word of a King, We will be advised.

And because the passion, and uncharitableness of the times, have produced several opinions in Religion, by which men are engaged in parties, and animosities against each other, which, when they shall hereafter unite in a freedome of conversation, will be composed, or better understood; We do declare a Liberty to tender Consciences, and that no man shall be disquieted, or called in question, for differences of opinion in matter of Religion, which do not disturbe the peace of the Kingdome, and that we shall be ready to consent, to such an Act of Parliament, as upon mature deliberation shall be offered to us, for the full granting that Indulgence.

And because in the Continued distractions of so many years, and so many and great Revolutions, many Grants, and Purchases of Estates have been made to, and by many Officers, Souldiers, and others, who are now possessed of the same, and who may be liable to Actions at Law, upon several Titles,

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Titles, We are likewise willing, that all such differences, and all things relating to such Grants, sales, and purchases shall be determined in Parliament, which can best provide for the just Satisfaction of all men who are concerned.

And we do further Declare, that we will be ready to consent to any Act, or Acts of Parliament to the purposes aforesaid, and for the full satisfaction of all Arrears due to the Officers, and Soldiers of the Army, under the Command of General Monk, and that they shall be received into Our Service, upon as good pay, and conditions as they now enjoy.

Given under Our Signe Manual, and Pryvy Signet, at Our Court at Breda, this ^{4th} Day of April, 1660. in the twelfth year of Our Reign.

Tuesday May 1. 1660.

Resolved upon the question by the Commons Assembled in Parliament (*nemine contradicente*)

THat a Committee be appointed to prepare an Answer to His Majesties Letter, expressing the great and joyful Sence of this House of His Gracious Offers, and their humble and hearty Thanks to His Majestie for the same, and with professions of their Loyalty and Duty to His Majestie; and that this House will give a speedy Answer to His Majesties Gracious Proposals.

Resolved, &c. (*nemine contradicente*)

THat the Letters from His Majestie both that to this House, and that to the Lord General, with His Majesties Declaration which came inclosed, and the resolve of this House thereupon be forthwith printed and published.

Wm. Jessop Clerk of the Commons
House of Parliament.